nas been signed between Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Mobil International Petroleum Inc. USA to form a Joint Venture Company in India for blending and marketing of Mobil brand lubricants. In addition to blending the lubricants in the existing blending plants of IOC at Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, the JVC will also put up a blending plant of 1,50,000 MTs capacity at Asaoti in Haryana at an estimated cost of Rs. 47 crores using state-of-the-art technology. The plant is expected to be commissioned in mid 1996. The authorised and initial paid up capital of the JVC is Rs. 50 crores and Rs. 20 crores respectively which would be shared equally by the JV partners. The JV product is likely to be marketed by May, 1994.

LPG Agencies in Punjab

2454. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 350 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd February, 1994 and state:

(a) the number of cooking gas agencies in the country, particularly in the State of Punjab at present;

(b) the number of LPG agencies proposed to be sanctioned this year alongwith their locations in various States; and

(c) what is the number of LPG gas agencies that are proposed to be sanctioned during the year 1994 in the State of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) As on 1-1-1994, there were 4221 LPG distributorships in the country, out of which 176 LPG distributorships were functioning in Punjab.

(b) and (c) 623 LPG distributorships have been included in the current Marketing Plan 1992-94 to be put up at different locations in the country, of which 35 proposals are for the State of Punjab.

Approval of proposal for Bharat Petroleum

2455. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved a proposal for Bharat Petroleum to raise its authorised capital from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 200 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Government have approved the proposal of M/s. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. to increase its authorised share capital from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 200 crores. This increase will widen the capital base of the Corporation and enable it to raise funds for financing its expansion plans covering both refining and marketing operations.

Handing over the work of exploration to Government of Gujarat

2456. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to hand over the work of exploration of oil and gas to the Gujarat Government in their areas;

(b) if so, what are the conditions laid down for the same; and

(c) whether Government would consider giving this work locally to other States also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Government of India have approved the award of contracts to Gujarat State Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. Ahmedabad for development of 5 small sized oil fields falling in the State of Gujarat.

(b) These fields would be developed by companies on their own, with no participation by ONGC/OIL, under production-sharing contracts to be signed by the companies with the Government of India. Companies would also be required to bear their share of statutory levies like royalty, cess etc. Companies involved in oil exploitation would be levied income-tax at a fixed rate of 50 per cent (without surcharge). The Government of India would have the right of first refusal in respect of the oil and gas produced under all such ventures.

(c) As and when any offer is received from any other State Government Undertakings of other States, the same would be considered along with other offers.

Supply of gas from western coast to other parts of the country

2457. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume and value of natural gas flared away during each year since 1984-85 because of lack of storage and distribution facilities in the country;

(b) whether plans are on the anvil for laying pipelines for carrying gas from the Western coast to the other parts of the country;

(c) if so, what are the principles governing the policy for laying such pipelines: and

(d) whether laying of pipelines to the eastern zone will be duly considered in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) A statement is annexed. (See below).

(b) The concept of laying a pipeline from the Western coast to the Southern States has been accepted in principle.

(c) The availability of gas and techno-economic feasibility will be the deciding factors.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Statement

Year	Qty. Flared (MMSCM)	National Value (Rs. crores)
1984-85	2876.94	*
1985-86	3119.10	*
1986-87	2736.20	*
1987-88	3422.80	413.55
1988-89	3874.10	476.29
1989-90	5733.60	740.73
1990-91	5161.40	663.97
1991-92	4119.66	518.30
1992-93	1854.20	216.57
1993-94 (Apr. 93-Jan. 94)	1545.38	178.67

*The price of gas prior to January 1987 was fixed on ad hoc basis.

सरकारी क्षेत्र की तेल कम्पनियों द्वारा चलाई जाने वाली परियोजनायें

2458. **श्री राम नरेश यादव** : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या तेल उद्योग के क्षेत्र में गैर सरकारी कम्पनियों और अन्य संस्थाओं की भागीदारी दिन-प्रतिदिन बढ़ती जा रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकारी नीतियों में परिवर्तन किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के अंत तक सरकारी क्षेत्र की कम्पनियों द्वारा